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Israel

Agricultural Situation

Non-Citrus Fruits

A Review of the 1999 Season

2000

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Report Highlights:
Israel produced 504 metric tons of fruit in 1999 (excluding citrus).

Several drought years in the past decade seriously depleted Israel's water reserves and led the GOI to reduce irrigation quotas by 25 to 40 percent throughout the country.

Ministry of Agriculture production forecasts for 2005 estimate an increase to 700 mt but growth of population and per capita fruit consumption are expected to raise demand significantly beyond that level and result in a significant increase in annual imports.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Israeli non-citrus fruit production in 1999 totaled 504 thousand metric tons (tmt), about 13 percent

of the total non-livestock value of agricultural production. Of the total, 373 tmt went to the local fresh market. According to Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) forecasts for 2005, the demand for fresh fruit can be expected to increase in size in tandem with the predicted 1.5 percent annual growth of population and continuing increases in per-capita consumption of fresh fruits.

Non-citrus fruit production in 1999 did not increase and even dropped by 1 percent, following a second consecutive year of drought. The government cut irrigation quotas for fruit plantations by 25 percent. In spite of this, the MOA predicts that the area planted to fruit, will grow and production will increase in the medium term.

Imports of fruits to Israel traditionally have been very limited, however the Israeli market is now gradually opening up, especially to quality fruits, following Israel's accession to the WTO. Value of imports in 1999 totalled about $40 million. Formal access to the market is theoretically unrestricted, but very high duties and strict phytosanitary constraints limit the admissibility of most fruits.

Israeli growers most likely to survive the rising competition will probably be those most capable of matching the quality of imports. If, however, due to water supply and other problems, domestic production of non-citrus fruits fails to keep pace with the large predicted increases in domestic demand over the next few years, opportunities for growth of exports to the Israeli market may increase.

Production

Israel produces a wide variety of non-citrus fruits. This sector accounts for some 13 percent of the total agricultural crop value. It supplies most of the demand for fresh fruits in the local market as well as sending substantial quantities to export markets, especially of subtropicals such as avocado, mango and recently, growing quantities of lychee and other exotics.

The non-citrus sector in Israel has been changing continuously during the past decade. Production volume grows by 2.5 percent annually, along with a 1.2 percent yearly expansion of orchard area. After cancellation of production quotas, all new planting and marketing are on a 'free market' basis without government intervention. The number of growers declined from 17,000 at the beginning of the decade to 8,000 in 1999, each has an average 5 hectares producing 60 mt of fruit, depending on the species.

The key fruits in Israel are apples, avocados and bananas, which altogether account for 52 percent of total production. Towards 2005 supply can be expected to exceed 700 tmt due to a predicted 1.5 percent annual growth of population and continuing increases in per-capita consumption of fresh fruits.

The 1998/99 Crop Season
In 1999, the production of non-citrus fruits dropped by one percent. The decline is attributed mainly to the hot and dry conditions during the winter along with a 25 percent reduction in irrigation quotas. The producers' policy was to keep irrigating the productive plantations while reducing the water supply to old plantations and to less profitable varieties.

Land, Water and Labor Issues
Land is not a limiting resource in the expansion of fruit production. In 1999, the irrigated area of non-citrus plantations reached 35,000 hectares, some10,000 ha more than the area planted to citrus. Although recent rezoning has made agricultural land available for construction, particularly in the center of the country, this should not affect the non-citrus fruit sector.

Table 1. Non-Citrus Fruit Production – Thousands of metric tons

Fruit	Average 95-98	1998	1999	1999 as percent of total	2005 forecast
Apples	92.9	101.6	90.6	18.0	157.2
Pears	21.1	19.5	18.5	3.7	31.8
Table grapes	43.6	43.2	36.3	7.2	80.2
Wine grapes	35.0	33.0	40.1	8.0	44.8
Peaches	43.3	43.4	39.4	7.8	63.5
Plums	10.6	18.9	15.1	3.0	29.4
Apricots	8.2	8.7	6.4	1.3	13.0
Bananas	88.6	109.2	120.0	23.8	111.7
Avocados	65.2	52.8	51.8	10.3	80.0
Mangos	17.8	20.7	22.6	4.5	22.0
Persimmons	14.9	12.7	15.0	3.0	22.8
Dates	12.2	11.3	11.9	2.4	16.0
Olives	11.5	10.6	13.0	2.6	18.8
Kiwi	2.6	2.6	3.8	0.8	3.3
Cherries	1.1	1.2	1.7	0.4	1.2
Quinces	0.5	0.6	0.3	-	0.9
Guavas	1.8	1.5	1.8	0.4	1.9
Pomegranates	1.8	1.9	2.3	0.5	2.0
Loquats	3.1	2.9	3.6	0.7	4.0
Figs	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	0.6
Almonds	5.2	5.8	5.8	1.1	4.4
Pecans	0.4	0.4	0.4	-	1.3
Other	2.8	3.3	3.6	0.7	3.8
Total	**484.5**	**506.1**	**504.3**	**100**	**714.6**

Source: Fruit Board of Israel. MOA, Forecast of Agricultural Production, 1999-2005.
Note: “Average” refers to the average quantities in years 1995-1998.

Water on the other hand is very much a limiting factor. In 1999, the total irrigation demand in the fruit sector was about 1.3 million cubic meters (m^3). The government had cut the water quotas for agriculture by 40 percent; growers who had only fruit plantations had their quotas cut by 25 percent. Four leading fruits – avocados, bananas, apples and peaches – account for 60 percent of total non-citrus fruit demand for water. Water accounts for more than 30 percent of total production costs in avocado and about 15 percent in apples so the increase in the price of water will have a real affect on those crops. Yet, the MOA estimates that except for the apple sector, other non-citrus fruit crops can bear an increase in the price of irrigation water and the crop area will grow. Presently, Israel is at a crossroads. It is essential to increase good quality water resources and to continuously monitor and control salinity levels. The greatest expected change in water use is the switch from fresh water to recycled wastewater. The market is not yet ready for this and efforts will be required to allow this development to take place successfully. If the requirements for sufficient high quality water for irrigation are not met it will become increasingly difficult to meet the domestic fruit demand and imports can be expected to grow accordingly.

It is also considered important to reduce the present growing dependence on foreign labor in the orchards, and to move instead towards increased mechanization and automation in spite of the considerable capital cost this entails and the high real rate of interest in Israel.

Policy Changes in 1999

The MOA considers it important to raise fruit marketing standards. The 1999 agricultural investment plan included investments in packinghouses and grading facilities for fruit. The plan encouraged the planting of new orchards, particularly sub-tropical fruits, vineyards for wine and table grapes, dates and other exotic fruits. The 1999 plan also encouraged research and development into new varieties of fruit, improving quality, promoting controlled atmosphere storage, and training. A ministerial committee has been working on fruit and vegetable standards for the domestic market for a number of years but is faced with strong delaying tactics, mainly from the growers.

The WTO agreement will most likely force growers to adopt stricter standards and enforcement means, in order to enable local producers to compete with imported fruit and vegetables, both in terms of quality and cost. If official standards for local markets are not developed and strictly enforced, it will be difficult for domestic production to compete in an increasingly liberal market.

The Golan Heights

In the event of a peace agreement between Israel and Syria, it is predicted that the Golan Heights would be under Syrian authority. The Golan's non-citrus fruit plantation area is about 8 percent of the total area in Israel. The main fruits that grow on the Golan Heights are apples (45 percent of the total apple area in Israel), pears (17 percent) and wine grapes (13 percent). If the Golan Heights revert to Syria it is still possible that the plantations and crops may belong to Israel or at least be cultivated by Israeli farmers or companies under a long term leasing arrangement.

An Overview of Some Key Species

Apples

The area planted to apples in 1999 was about 5,700 hectares. Production totalling 90,600 was valued at NS242 million (in July 2000 $1.00 = NS 4.10). Imports in 1999 grew almost to 11,000 mt and reached a landed value of 11 million dollars. The opening stocks of the 1999 marketing season were low, causing high prices in the beginning of the season. MOA planners decided to reduce import duties to encourage imports and lower consumer prices. Bureaucratic problems delayed the reduction of duties until April. Following the reduction the market was flooded with large quantities of apples. This caused a sharp fall in prices. In July, the levies were raised again but it was too late and large quantities needed to be cleared from the market as the new crop appeared. The stocks in January 2000 were 60,000 mt, again causing a real marketing problem. Many apples were sold to industry at low prices. The competition from imports in the spring of 1999 encouraged the local growers to invest more in the quality of their product than in quantity.

Bananas

The area planted to bananas in 1999 was about 2,550 hectares. 1999 saw a production record of 120 tmt with total value of NS221 million. This is explained by good conditions in the Jordan Valley, the main banana region of the country. Due to the large supply, prices were low and sometimes fell below production costs. Because Israel is such a small market (6 million inhabitants) even a relatively small surplus can play havoc with wholesale and retail prices. Toward 2005 the volume can be expected to return to a normal production level of 110 tmt.

Avocados

Avocado plantations covered about 5,000 hectares in 1999. A shortage of avocado in Israel's traditional markets is forecast for the coming decade. Widespread new planting should begin as soon as nurseries prepare a large enough inventory of saplings. MOA planners expect planted area to reach 8000 hectares, producing 90,000 mt. In the next few years this sector will try to cope with increased competition, mainly from Mexico and Spain, in Israel's main export markets and to help the trees to adapt to recycled water with new West Bengal rootstocks. However, the expected average yield of 11.25 mt/ha is well below the 15 mt/ha required to maintain acceptable profit levels.

Table Grapes

Vineyard areas are about 3,500 hectares, mainly of seedless varieties. Table grape production in 1999 reached 36,300 mt, valued at NS156 million. The trend is to replace old variety vineyards with new ones in order to extend the marketing season at both ends and to keep high quality standards along with good quantities. Israeli grapes are sold between May and September; in April, there were trial imports of table grapes from South Africa. From October to December local grapes from the hills of Hebron could still be found in the market but not in large quantities.

Wine Grapes

The transition to better quality varieties and the increase in wine consumption kept industry profitability high. The main varieties grown in Israel are: Carignan, French Colombard Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Emerald Riesling. The WTO agreement enabled imports of wine to Israel to grow from a few hundred thousand dollars

worth in 1994 to $2.3 million in 1996 and to $6.9 million in 1999. Main suppliers include Chile, France Italy and Romania. According to the Wine Grapes Board (WGB) most imported wines are of low quality and sell at low prices. However, imported and domestic wines selling at as much as $100 per bottle can also be found on the shelves. The WGB forecast is that production volume will expand by 10 percent annually, especially quality varieties such as Merlot, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet. Imports of wine can be expected to grow at least at a similar rate.

Dates

Date production, in 1999, was 12 tmt valued at some NS160 million, of which 55 percent was exported. The local market consumed about 40 percent more than in 1998. About 5.5 tmt, mostly **Majhoul**, were exported. Date plantations cover about 2,000 hectares with 230,000 trees. In 1999, there were 24,300 new plantings, mainly of the variety Majhoul, the production of which can be expected to increase from 3,500 mt to 7,000 mt in the next five years. Israel's MOA forecasts that in 2005, date production will reach 16,000 mt.

Lychee

Lychee plantations cover about 300 ha, most of them still young. The main variety is Mauritius, originally from South Africa. The year 1999 saw production grow from 500 mt to 1,300 mt. Export quantities were doubled to 900 mt competing with Thai exports to Europe. Local market consumption grew from 120 mt in 1998 to 400 mt in 1999. The MoA planners did not foresee that increase and predicted only 700 mt for the year 2005.

Consumption

Table 2. Non-Citrus Fruit Production in Israel in 1999 by Disposal - metric tons

Fruit	Total Production	Local Consumption	Export	Local Industry	Intermediate Produce
Apples	90592	81973		8020	599
Pears	18507	18288			219
Table grapes	36326	28492	7795		39
Wine grapes	40100	700		39400	
Peaches	39367	39164	41		162
Plums	15110	13739	623	673	75
Apricots	6355	6232		108	15
Bananas	119987	101728			18259
Avocados	51754	19079	32662		14
Mangos	22559	14159	8372		28
Persimmons	15026	7526	7500		
Dates	11852	6506	5347		
Olives	12981	12981			
Kiwi	3843	3816			27
Cherries	1703	1684			19
Quince	337	337			
Guavas	1784	1768			16
Pomegranates	2325	2228	97		
Loquats	3586	3586			
Figs	284	262	22		
Almonds	5797	5797			
Pecans	422	422			
Custard apples	492	492			
Pineapples	340	340			
Papayas	151	143	8		
Lychee	1300	268	900		
Feijoa	91	91			
Carambola	159	151	8		
Prickly pear	974	974			
Other	161	91	70		
Total	**504265**	**373149**	**63445**	**48201**	**19472**

Source: Israel Fruit Board.

Domestic Market

Roughly 74 percent of production goes to the fresh market. The per-capita consumption of fresh fruit was about 59 kg/year in 1997 and is expected to reach 64 kg in 2003. In Israel two separate fruit and vegetable production standards are applied. The standards of quality and packaging of produce destined for the local market are far lower than for that destined for export markets, and frequently even these lower quality standards are not enforced. Different qualities of produce sent to local markets are not distinguishable by grades or marks, therefore higher quality produce is not rewarded. This removes the motivation for maintaining high quality in domestic production. Some producers take advantage of this by sending lower quality produce to the market and destroying the reputation of the product. This can result in reduced demand, higher percentages of waste, increased costs, and excessive handling by consumers searching for the best quality fruit on the shelf. In Israel fruit is usually marketed in open bins and consumers select their choice piece by piece.

Sabbatical Year (Shmita)

From September 2000 to September 2001 Israel's farmers observe the biblical Seventh (or Fallow)Year. During this priod, religious Jews are forbidden to consume vegetables and fruits that were grown by Jews within the borders of the biblical Land of Israel. Regarding fruits which flowered in the course of the fallow year, the prohibition is on the crops that will be supplied at the end of 2001.

The MOA estimates that there will be no difference in the regular consumption or imports, since only a small proportion of the population observes the Fallow Year commandments. The limited quantities they require can be supplied by Druse growers (apples) or by the Palestinian Authority (plums and other) as has happened in previous Sabbatical Years. Supplies from Jordan may also fill part of the vacuum.

Wine imports cannot be expected to grow significantly either because there is a rabbinical mechanism ("Otsar Beit Din") that allows local production and sale in the domestic market.

Table 3: Per-capita Fruit Consumption in 1997 and Forecast for 2003 - (kg)

Fruit	1997	2003	Fruit	1997	2003
Apples	11.4	8.2	Quince	0.1	0.03
Pears	3.7	3.5	Guava	0.3	0.3
Table grapes	5.3	5.0	Pomegranates	0.3	0.3
Peaches	6.7	6.8	Figs	0.05	0.04
Plums	2.3	2.6	Almonds	0.7	1.3
Apricots	1.1	1.3	Pecans	0.04	0.02
Bananas	13.7	16.7	Custard apples	0.06	0.08
Avocados	4.8	8.2	Pineapples	0.04	0.06
Mangos	2.0	2.6	Papaya	0.03	0.03
Persimmons	2.1	1.8	Lychee	0.01	0.02
Dates	0.9	0.9	Loquats	0.5	0.6
Olives	1.6	2.4	Carambola	0.01	0.02
Kiwi	0.5	0.5	Prickly pears	0.2	0.2
Cherries	0.1	0.2	Other	0.01	0.01
Total	56.2	60.7	Total	2.35	3.01

Source: MoA, Forecast of non-citrus production 1999-2005, 1999.

TRADE

Imports

The import of fresh fruit for local consumption is limited. This is partly due to Israel's capacity to produce domestically the quantities that are required, and partly because traditionally the import of fresh fruit and vegetables to Israel had been totally banned. Under the GATT-Uruguay Round Agreement the Government agreed to replace non-tariff barriers with equivalent duties to be reduced over time. Today under the WTO, imports to Israel are unrestricted but there are high customs duties. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the fruit imports can be expected to grow, especially out of season. At present, most fruit species are banned on phytosanitary grounds.

The new Tel-Aviv wholesale market is scheduled to open in three years; it is designed to have cold storage facilities in order to raise quality standards of imports and exports. Consideration is being given to the possibility of its serving as a transit point on the route to the Gulf States and to possible markets in Saudi Arabia..

The largest fresh import in 1999 was of apples. Due to low apple stocks in the winter of 1999, it was decided to reduce duties, allow for large supplies to the market and thus reduce consumer price. After a delay caused by bureaucratic problems the levies were reduced. In late spring, large quantity of apples began landing in Israel and caused a sharp reduction in prices. Having spent 8 - 10 months in cold storage, the imported American apples were of low quality and damaged the reputation of American produce in general. The main suppliers were the U.S. (78%), France (11%), Italy (7%), Holland and Spain.

Phytosanitary Restrictions

Israel's accession to the WTO opened its market to all fruit imports. Under the SPS agreement, the Plant Protection and Inspection Service (PPIS) of the MOA will revise its regulations regarding fruit imports. The revised regulations are scheduled to become effective in 2001. Until then, PPIS policy is reportedly to approve all imports that were allowed before (concerning species and country of origin) and reject new imports until the committee finishes its work. In fact, the service approved trial shipments of grapes from South Africa in mid-April, 2000. While PPIS cannot be expected to open Israel's borders to all fruits and vegetables, access can be expected to be easier and to improve as interested parties prepare Pest Risk Analyses for important exports.

Customs Policy

As mentioned, the Israeli Government replaced non-tariff barriers with equivalent duties which serve as real barriers to imports. In general, the duty on all fruit imports runs between 100 percent and 45 percent of landed value, depending on whether the CIF value of the fruit is higher (45%) or lower (100% duty) than normative domestic production costs. U.S. produce has a discount of at least 10 percent from the MFN rate.

Israel's main trading partners in fresh produce are the EU and the USA. Duty-free import quotas from the EU in 1999 included 750 tons of apples and 500 tons of quince, and also a 25 percent reduction from MFN duty on raisins. The duty-free import quota from the USA included 1,800 tons of apples, 877 tons of pears, 250 tons of quince, 524 tons of peaches and nectarines, 608 tons of table grapes, 563 tons of raisins, and 340 tons of plums and sloes and about 750 tons of prunes

In the course of the year trade agreements for import of fresh fruits from Hungary and Jordan came

into effect. Under the Israel-Jordan trade agreement Jordan can export up to 50,000 mt of fresh produce annually - the types to be determined ad hoc.

Implications for U.S. Exporters

The Israeli market for imported fruit is opening up and opportunities for importers are increasing. Low quality control and standards for domestic produce would suggest that imported high quality products could have a competitive advantage in Israel. The introduction of standards will regulate the market and make it easier for importers of high quality produce to operate profitably within it. Yet it is anticipated that the local market will respond to the challenge of high quality imports, and that local producers will improve the quality of their local market produce making it more competitive. However if, due to water quantity and quality problems, domestic production of non-citrus fruits fails to keep pace with the predicted increases in domestic demand, apples in particular, it is very likely that this will lead to increased opportunities for importers.

U.S. export organizations would be well advised to initiate preparation of Pest Risk Assessments (PRA) for those species which Israel now bans. This can be done in cooperation with APHIS which has extensive experience in this field, and perhaps with land grant universities. Preparation of well-researched PRAs can expedite U.S. access to Israeli markets in which the present trade agreement provides duty free tariff rate quotas (TRQs). At present fruits such as cherries, peaches, nectarines, grapes and all citrus are banned on phytosanitary grounds.

Producers should be aware that preparations are under way for bilateral negotiations to extend the present U.S. - Israel Agreement on Food and Agriculture for another five years. The present agreement expires at the end of 2001. Growers and exporters with an interest in the Israeli market should contact USDA/FAS/HTP and discuss their interests with the staff there.

Table 4: Monthly Imports of Apples - metric tons

	1997	1998	1999
HS Code: 08081000			
January	1257	630	579
February	1161	269	512
March	2995	526	1889
April	3322	534	2562
May	37	656	4895
June	-	533	2897
July	-	334	20
August	-	172	42
September	-	54	-
October	-	78	-
Novemb	-	141	386
December	-	675	187
Total	8772	4602	13933
Total Value ('000 USD)	**$8765**	**$3890**	**$10992**

Source: Fruit Board, 1999. CBS, Foreign Trade Annuals

Table 5: Monthly Imports of Pears - metric tons

	1997	1998	1999
HS Code: 08082020			
January	214	475	499
February	378	345	621
March	582	987	472
April	347	1183	528
May	507	1245	442
June	240	22	85
July	291	-	-
August	133	74	299
September	36	74	266
October	125	188	198
November	630	409	446
December	683	502	702
Total	4095	5504	477
Total Value ('000 USD)	**$3387**	**$2546**	**$4208**

Source: Israel Fruit Board. CBS, Foreign Trade - Import, 1999
In 1999 main pear suppliers were Spain (71%) of the total, the U.S. (25%) and France.

Table 6: Forecast of Main Imports of Non-Citrus Fruits in 2010

Fruit	Fresh market consumption 1998 (tons)	Change by 2010	Fresh market consumption 2010 (tons)	Of which: Imports	Imports as share of Market	Country of Origin
Apples	94000	10%	103400	55000	53%	EU, US, SA, Turkey, Chile
Pears	24000	10%	26400	10000	38%	EU, US, SA, Turkey, Chile
Grapes	40000	10%	44000	5000	11%	Chile, SA
Bananas	100000	7%	107000	85000	79%	South and Central America
Dried fruits / Olives	45000	7%	48150	35000	73%	US, Turkey, Greece
Other fruit	128000	17%	149850	15000	10%	Southern Hemisphere

SA= South Africa. Source: Program of the Tel-Aviv New Wholesale Market, 1999

Exports

Table 7. Non-Citrus Fruit Exports from Israel, 1998-1999, by Quantity and Value

Fruit	Quantity (000 tons)	Value (000US$) (FOB)	Quantity (000 tons)	Value (000US$) (FOB)	Destination
	1998	1998	1999	1999	
Avocados	24,908	24,913	35,407	40,191	France (57%), Germany (10%)
Bananas	197		639	446	Germany (40%), Asia (45%)
Table Grapes	8,503	18,821	6,943	13,671	UK (66%), Germany (20%)
Mango	6,406	5,800	6,717	6,208	France(30), Germ(15), Holland(13), UK(13%)
Date	2,830	9,763	4,239	16,073	Germany (20%), France (20), Spain(20)

Source: CBS, Agricultural Quarterly, 1999

Statistical Annex

Table 1. Non-Citrus Fruit Production - Minor Crops and Exotics - metric tons

Custard apples	400	500	500	400
Pineapples	300	400	300	600
Papayas	100	100	100	300
Lychee	400	500	1,300	700
Feijoa	100	100	100	100
Carambola	200	200	200	200
Prickly pears	1,200	1,400	1,000	1,200
Other	100	100	100	300
Total	**2,800**	**3,300**	**3,600**	**3,800**

Table 2. Main Fruits - Monthly Deliveries to Market

Metric Tons

Month	**Apples**		**Table grapes**		**Avocado**		**Pecans**	
	Average 1995-98	**1999**	**Average 1995-98**	**1999**	**Average 1995-98**	**1999**	**Average 1995-98**	**1999**
January	6788	7566	8	0	10064	3971	78	171
February	7353	5941	4	0	8007	6709	42	40
March	6810	7831	4	0	9380	4672	37	0
April	6625	5560	112	309	5389	2130	7	0
May	5319	4702	883	1329	2492	856	10	0
June	6217	4457	8982	7097	970	303	10	0
July	7149	5529	11651	6844	745	685	2	0
August	7106	6547	6544	14195	139	193	10	0
September	12078	11405	6490	2307	1179	768	20	0
October	11888	12620	5766	3795	6349	6945	12	12
November	7677	9397	2160	294	9702	13231	58	59
December	7913	9037	982	157	10755	11291	115	139
Total	**92923**	**90592**	**43586**	**36326**	**65171**	**51754**	**339**	**422**

Table 2. (Continued) Main Fruits - Monthly Deliveries to Market

metric tons

Month	Pears		Persimmons		Bananas		Almonds	
	Average 1995-98	1999	Average 1995-98	1999	Average	1999	Average 1995-98	1999
January	1301	1205	1720	51	12054	14929	142	0
February	1493	1148	727	35	10668	13725	35	0
March	1649	1960	216	0	11686	16092	79	0
April	1281	1405	25	0	9932	10364	392	111
May	1	1121	36	0	6474	5747	154	5198
June	680	415	260	0	2501	3196	811	176
July	2404	1663	15	0	916	2461	838	14
August	2931	2240	6	0	1702	5004	1866	101
September	2307	1825	73	156	3534	7350	601	0
October	2331	2234	1068	98	6759	11344	49	1
November	1936	1879	8033	14560	10139	13989	78	22
December	1737	1414	2715	126	12264	15786	193	173
Total	**21085**	**18507**	**14894**	**15026**	**88629**	**119987**	**5238**	**5797**

Source: Fruit Board of Israel (FB), Annual report. CBS, Agricultural Activity Account in Israel, 1999.

Table 3. Average Farm Gate Prices of Selected Fruits, 1999
NS/mt

Fruit / Month	Apples	Pears	Plums	Peaches	Apricots	Table Grapes
January	2877	3851	-	-	-	-
February	3595	4019	-	-	-	-
March	3749	5256	-	-	-	-
April	3720	4188	-	7189	-	9689
May	4109	4633	5795	3511	4607	8798
June	4087	6519	5110	3921	4525	4686
July	2782	4052	5691	4779	4500	3460
August	4732	2978	4367	4277	-	2862
September	2807	3306	4998	3630	-	3121
October	2772	3456	5137	3470	-	3683
November	2312	3250	4286	2940	-	2826
December	2357	3659	-	-	-	-
Average	**3325**	**4097**	**5055**	**4215**	**4544**	**4891**

Table 3. (Continued) Average Farm Gate Prices of Selected Fruits, 1999
NS / mt

Fruit / Month	Bananas	Persimmons	Mango	Dates	Loquat	Rate of Exchange: $1.00 =
January	1777	3056	-	10545	-	4.079
February	1697	2370	-	8740	-	4.067
March	1406	3240	-	9975	12390	4.031
April	1652	2750	-	9215	5808	4.061
May	1748	-	-	9310	4337	4.117
June	1711	-	4788	9405	3524	4.089
July	2216	-	2864	8835	-	4.096
August	2154	1200	2872	6840	-	4.202
September	1943	4452	2738	5130	-	4.246
October	1892	3264	2349	6650	-	4.264
November	2020	2744	2564	8360	-	4.226
December	1711	2552	3638	9595	-	4.193
Average	**1827**	**2848**	**3116**	**8550**	**6515**	**4.13**

Source: CBS, Agricultural Statistics Quarterly, 1999

Table 4. Retail Prices of Main Fruits - 1999

NS/kg

Fruit	Pears Spadona	Table grapes		Avocado	
		Variety	Price	Variety	Price
January	9.90		-	Ettinger	7.40
February	9.90		-	Ried	7.80
March	9.90		-	Ried	5.99
April	13.90		-	Ried	8.40
May	13.90	Superior	19.90	Ried	12.40
June	13.90	Superior	11.50	Ried	14.90
July	8.99	Superior	6.60		-
August	11.90	Thompson	6.80	Schiler	14.90
September	6.99	Muscat	7.99	Ettinger	7.70
October	9.90	Thompson	9.90	Ettinger	4.40
November	11.90		-	Ettinger	3.99
December	11.90		-	Ettinger	4.99

Table 4. (Continued) Retail Prices of Main Fruits - 1999

NS/kg

Fruit	Apples-GrannySmith	Apples-Delicious	Bananas	Cherry	Quince
January	8.90	5.99	4.99	-	-
February	8.99	8.99	4.99	-	-
March	9.40	9.40	4.99	-	-
April	9.40	9.40	5.40	-	-
May	9.90	9.90	6.99	29.80	-
June	9.90	9.90	6.80	19.98	-
July	5.99	7.99	5.99	24.90	-
August	8.40	8.99	4.99	-	-
September	5.49	5.49	3.80	-	9.99
October	6.40	6.99	5.60	-	12.90
November	4.80	6.99	3.99	-	13.90
December	4.99	4.99	3.99	-	13.90

Source: MOA, Weekly wholesale and retail price report.
Note: The prices are of last week of the month, in Co-op Tel-Aviv stores only.
Other wholesale and retail prices are available on a weekly basis for main species and varieties.

Table 5. Imports of Other Fruits to Israel, 1999.
Metric Tons

	Quince	Raisins	Almonds	Dried Prunes
HS Code	**08082010**	**08062000**	**08021000**	**08132000**
January		87	206	85
February		116	269	132
March		203	188	198
April		183	190	117
May		100	139	98
June		119	131	104
July		124	181	102
August		25	170	23
September	18	10	96	90
October	20	15	169	
November	39	49	484	111
December	43	196	641	92
Total	**120**	**1227**	**2863**	**1242**
Total Value ('000 USD)	**159**	**3375**	**10000**	**2712**
Main sources	**Turkey (43%) Spain (35%)**	**U.S. (84%) Turkey (12%)**	**U.S. (92%) France (5%)**	**U.S. (92%) France (6.5%)**

Source: Israel Fruit Board. CBS, Foreign Trade - Import, 1999